

<b>Committee:</b> Economic and Cyber Crime Committee – For information	<b>Dated:</b> 7 September 2021
<b>Subject:</b> Economic Crime Academy Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1,10, 12
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> The Assistant Commissioner	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Christopher Felton	

## **SUMMARY**

The Academy has a healthy order book and projected financial forecast with further training expected to be booked in Q3 and Q4.

The Academy continues to its professional development programme for economic crime practitioners through development and piloting of courses in cyber / online fraud, victim care and crime prevention. International training activity has re-commenced.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are recommended to note the contents of this report.

## **MAIN REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This report will give a brief update on the current position of the Economic Crime Academy (ECA)

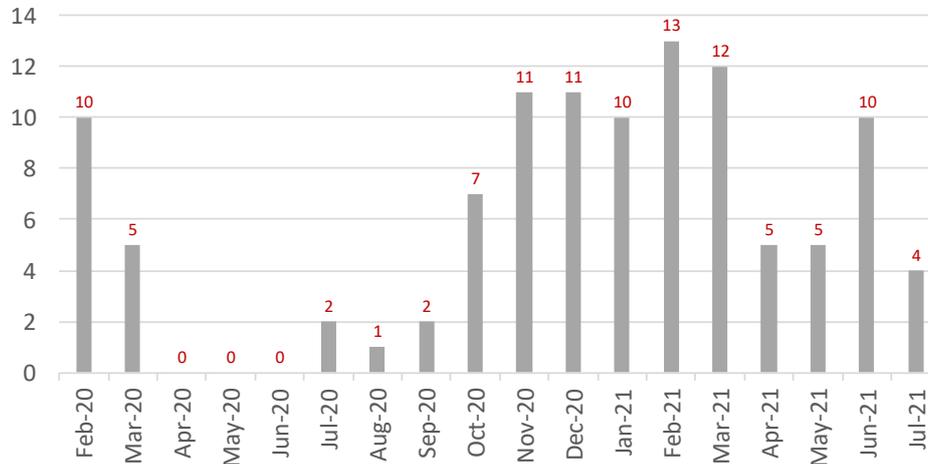
### **CURRENT POSITION**

2. The ECA is still delivering a mix of COVID safe face to face training and virtual training using MS Teams and Zoom. It has been busy over May June and the first half of July with an almost full calendar. Traditionally demand drops in late July and August during the holiday season so there is little training scheduled in this period.

3. Below is a summary of course and delegate numbers over the last 15 months.

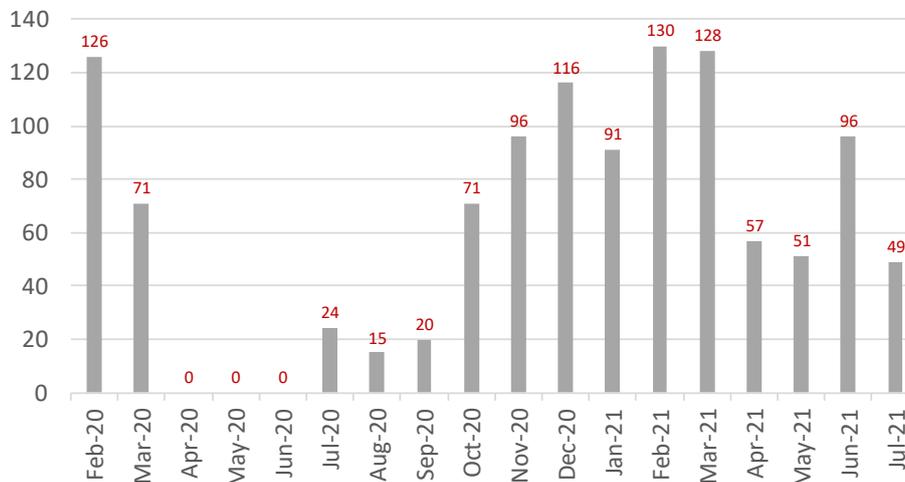
## ECA Performance

### Number of Courses



## ECA Performance

### Number of Delegates



4. From April the Academy has been delivering the Specialist Fraud Investigator Programme (SFI) face to face, and has increased the number of SFI courses to deal with pent up demand caused by the course being suspended during the height of COVID. As this is a two week course it reduces the number of course each month that the Academy can deliver as well as the number of delegates. However the number of actual training days delivered remains constant.
5. The current projected revenue for this financial year 2021/22 is £1.098m with projected cost budgeted at £0.934m. The Academy has capacity in Q3 and Q4 to deliver further courses and is continuing to receive enquiries and request for

bespoke courses. There is usually a spike in demand for Q4 as organisations try to spend training budgets before the end of the budget year. In addition as COVID restrictions loosening regard to international travel and training, there is expected to be an upswing in requests for overseas training. As a result of this revenue is expected to increase over the year.

6. The Academy have now successfully piloted two new fully online course, on Fraud Risk Assessment and Crypto Currency. There has been interest in both courses from police forces and the wider public sector counter fraud community. The crypto currency course will be delivered for Ukrainian law enforcement as was done with the Demystifying Cyber Crime Course (DCC). Both courses have been offered to all CoLP staff at no cost and have seen a good take up from around the organisation.
7. Development is in progress on two new online courses aimed at widening the current offering. The first course is a course on Cyber Enabled Fraud, which will be hosted on the Moodle training platform, while the second course on fraud reporting is being developed with the NFIB, Action Fraud, UK Finance and Coventry University and will be available through the Future Learn platform.
8. Two new classroom based course will start in September, the first is a fraud victim care programme for all National Economic Crime Victim Care Unit (NEVCU) staff, there has also been wider interest in this course and a course is already booked for the Pension Regulator. Open courses will be run for forces. The second programme is designed for fraud protect officers nationally and has been fully funded by the Illicit Finance budget and is being jointly delivered in partnership with Cifas.
9. The first overseas training delivery since the start of the COVID pandemic commenced in August with Academy staff delivering a one week anti-money laundering course in Gambia for the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC). In the coming months further training is planned in Ukraine, Southern Africa, Malaysia, Serbia and Montenegro. This is under constant review in relation to COVID and travel restrictions.
10. Engagement with ROCUs has been key in understanding their future growth, ambition and vision on a regional and national level; particularly in regard to the increased uplift and focus around economic crime and asset denial. This understanding has been key in identifying future training needs, both regionally and nationally. This engagement has also assisted in identifying additional training gaps, which are not covered within existing courses, such as the Fraud Investigation Model (FIM). Taking an innovative approach, the Academy are in the process of providing this training through bespoke short videos, which will be delivered through YouTube using a sharable private link. Crypto Currency investigations and a training programme Fraud Protect staff were also identified as requirements and new courses have been developed to meet these needs.
11. The development of the new Academy plan is nearing completion and currently sits with the Chief Officer Team for approval, prior to wider consultation with stakeholders and partners. Appendix A shows the vision and objectives lifted for further context.

## **CONCLUSION**

12. The Academy has a healthy order book and projected financial forecast with further training expected to be booked in Q3 and Q4.
13. The Academy has used the pandemic period to explore alternative models of training delivery (blended and online learning) and develop new courses for the range of skills required by economic crime practitioners. With the lifting of Covid restrictions training is being delivered face to face and online in the UK and abroad.

## **Appendices**

- Academy draft vision and objectives